

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph bridging pages 76 and 77 with the following amended paragraph:

Referring to the oxidation reaction of mercapto group, etc. with these oxidizing reagents, a known method disclosed in "~~Jikken Kagaku Koza (Institute of Experimental Chemistry)~~", 3rd edition, Maruzen, page 1,775 "Shin-Jikken Kagaku Koza 15, Oxidation and Reduction I-2", Maruzen pp. 725-727 and references cited therein, and organic peracids such as peracetic acid and perbenzoic acid are particularly preferably used because they can be relatively easily handled and give a good yield in oxidation.